

Regional Interoperability Advisory Board (RIAB)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 17, 2008
Kearney-Buffalo County Law Enforcement Center
Kearney, Nebraska

RIAB Members

Present: Sgt. Todd Beam, Mike Jeffres, Al Berndt, Timothy Loewenstein

Absent: Bob Brower, Mark Conrey

Other Attendees:

Darrin Lewis, Buffalo County Emergency Management

Pam Kemper, Nebraska Office of the CIO, Network Services

The attendees signed-in. The agenda was distributed.

The meeting commenced at 10:45 a.m. Sgt. Todd Beam, the Chair, called the meeting to order and called attention to the *Nebraska Open Meetings Act* displayed in the front of the room.

State Communications System

Mike Jeffres gave a brief update on the status of the implementation of the State's new Motorola communications system. Implementation will be done in four phases. The current focus is on the first phase starting in Western Nebraska, State Patrol Troop E's dispatch area. Phase I is targeted for completion by June 2009. Frequency coordination is currently ongoing.

The State Patrol and each user agency will determine what subscriber equipment is best for their operations. Other vendor equipment will be P25 tested before operating on the system.

The Interop Solutions Paraclete software project's integration with the State Motorola system was discussed. The state will have an Ethernet presence at each tower site. SIP-based PBX may also be tied into the WAN at the sites. The state is establishing Mutual Aid coverage overlays with the regional areas and tying local dispatch centers into the network. As the system is phased in, we want to develop a plan that is duplicatable throughout the State. We're looking for ways to integrate with the existing locals that want to participate. Participation is voluntary.

Governance for the State System and Mutual Aid System: N-WIN and NCOR

Al Berndt distributed copies of two Executive Orders signed by Governor Heineman 12/16/2008 that establishes two new governing councils: The Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network (N-WIN); and The Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR.) NEMA will post these on the NEMA website. These new councils will carry forward the RIAB goals.

The N-WIN Council will operate under the guidance and direction of the Lt. Governor and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group. N-WIN has 9 major purposes and charges, the first of which is to provide governance and policy level direction related to

the planning and decisions regarding development and operation of the N-WIN. It shall be comprised of representatives from the following agencies or organizations:

- The Chairman of N-WIN, appointed by the Governor.
- A Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) representative, appointed by the Superintendent of the NSP
- A Nebraska Game and Parks Commission representative, appointed by the Commission's Executive Director
- A Nebraska Fire Marshal representative, appointed by the State Fire Marshal
- A Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer representative, appointed by the Chief Information Officer
- A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency representative, appointed by the Adjutant General
- A Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) representative, appointed by the NPPD Chief Executive Officer.

In addition, two members, to be appointed by the Chairman of NCOR, shall be non-voting, ex-officio members. NEMA and The Division of Communications/OCIO will provide administrative and technical support to N-WIN.

NCOR will report to the Nebraska Homeland Security Director and the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group. NCOR is responsible for providing oversight and integration for the eight local public safety communications regions of Nebraska, to coordinate with N-WIN and for developing and implementing the State Communications Interoperability Plan.

The ten-member council will be comprised of one member of each of the eight local communications regions, who shall be appointed by each region; one representative of the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), appointed by the NPPD CEO; and one member of N-WIN, appointed by the N-WIN Chairman. NCOR will be administratively and technically supported by NEMA and the State Office of the CIO.

IECGP and PSIC Grant Update

Mr. Berndt gave an update on the status of the IECGP (Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program) and PSIC (Public Safety Interoperable Communications) grant. NEMA is in the process of putting in a request for the next generation of funds. The Federal Government is considering extending the grant deadlines. The State's focus is to give UNL Public Policy Center support to NCOR.

The cost of building the State network is being used to fulfill the matching PSIC fund requirement. None of the PSIC dollars are being used to fund the state network. Accepting grant funds also means taking ownership of sustaining what the grant funds were used to purchase. We're looking to the locals and regions to tell the State where to connect the state network to their existing networks. How to engineer that interconnectivity is the responsibility of the Nebraska Office of the CIO.

Interconnectivity would be defined and function differently in every region. NEMA is trying to manage the grant money and a process that allows that to happen. If the grant money is not used by the deadline, it cannot be redistributed. The State's plan takes into account what we can realistically accomplish with the money that creates a contiguous

interoperable resource. It must exist in places that provide strategic redundancy and regional flexibility.

Final RIAB Report to the Governor

Chairman Beam feels it is appropriate to author a report to the Governor thanking him for the RIAB opportunity, and to summarize what has been accomplished and provide recommendations on how to continue making progress.

Mr. Jeffres volunteered to draft the report in the form of a letter to the Governor. The draft will be emailed to the members for review and comment. Mr. Berndt volunteered to edit it and provide a cover sheet. He will put it in a form and format to be included as part of his required yearly report to the Legislature.

Suggestions made by the members:

- Continue stressing the importance of the State as a peer region with the local regions
- As the grants dry up, leadership from the Governor's office is critical for long-term sustainability. NEMA should be funded to continue fostering statewide interoperability training and cooperation among the regions.
- There should be a yearly statewide conference. Initially, it could be coordinated by NEMA, and NEMA should be funded to carry it out.
- It is vital that the annual conference should be inclusive of multi-disciplines of public safety personnel, not just emergency managers. Everyone should feel welcome. It should be presented in a way that even county and city board members will want to attend.

Additional questions and comments were solicited. None were offered.

Chairman Todd Beam made the motion to adjourn.

Timothy Loewenstein seconded.

All members present voted in favor of adjournment.

The final meeting of RIAB adjourned at 12:10 p.m.